

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 DODE-00 CIAE-00 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
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C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 13696

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, KE
SUBJECT: US-SOVIET INDIAN OCEAN TALKS: BRIEFING GOK

REF: STATE 241701

1. DCM AND POLOFF, DRAWING ON INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY THE DEPARTMENT, ON OCTOBER 19 BRIEFED SHITEMI, CHIEF AMERICAN AND UN DIVISION IN FONMIN, ON US-SOVIET TALKS ON INDIAN OCEAN ARMS LIMITATION.

2. SHITEMI(WHO TOOK NOTES DURING DISCUSSION) THANKED EMBOFFS AND SAID HE WOULD DISSEMINATE INFORMATION WITHIN GOK. SHITEMI SAIDN KENYA WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH MILITARY ACTIVITIES BY SUPERPOWERS IN INDIAN OCEAN AND FELT THAT LITTORAL STATES SHOULD HAVE A VOICE IN ANY ARMS LIMITATION THAT MIGHT BE WORKED OUT FOR THE AREA. SHITEMI NOTED THAT, WHILE KENYA HAD AN ESPECIALLY FRIENDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE UNITED STATES, THE SOVIET UNION WAS NOT KENYA'S ENEMY. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH KENYA WOULD PREFER TO HAVE THE INDIAN OCEAN FREE FROM THE FLEETS OF BOTH SUPERPOWERS, HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LIKE TO SEE THE UNITED STATES UNILATERALLY ABANDON THE AREA WHILE LEAVING THE SOVIET FLEET IN PLACE.

3. EMBOFFS ASSURED SHITEMI THAT USG WOULD ALWAYS BE WILLING
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TO LISTEN TO CONCERNS OF LITTORAL STATES, BUT THAT, AS THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION WERE THE ONLY POWERS WITH SIGNIFICANT NAVAL UNITS DEPLOYED IN THE INDIAN AREA, WE FELT THAT ANY ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENT MUST, INITIALLY AT LEAST, BE AGREED UPON BY THE TWO POWERS IN BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS. SHITEMI CONCEDED THE LOGIC OF THE ARGUMENT, BUT HE SAID THAT, TO MANY OF THE LITTORAL STATES, THIS SORT OF BILATERAL NEGOTIATION

TIATION HAD THE APPEARANCE OF A DIVISION OF INFLUENCE IN THE AREA BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS, WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE COUNTRIES WHOSE INTERESTS WERE BEING SO DIRECTLY AFFECTED.

4. COMMENT: WE THINK IT PROBABLE THAT SHITEMI, AN INTELLIGENT AND ARTICULATE SENIOR CIVIL SERVANT, ACCURATELY REFLECTS HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS QUESTION. IF A PREPONDERANCE OF THE INDIAN OCEAN LITTORAL STATES FEEL THAT THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE DECIDING THESE NATIONS' FATE WITHOUT CONSULTING THE GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, THE RELATIONS OF BOTH THE US AND THE USSR WITH THE LITTORAL STATES COULD SUFFER. WE WOULD SUGGEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER THE FEASIBILITY OF HAVING THE LITTORAL STATES PARTICIPATE(FOLLOWING THE NEGOTIATIONS) IN THE CONCLUSION OF ANY ARMS LIMITATIONS AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA.
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Oct-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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